

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would definitely and strongly support what Senator Warner just has said to us, and that is that if it is worth legislating, it is worth funding. And I think, too, that we must remember that we are in a difficult period of time as far as we've talked about the Franklin situation. We know what we are finding with children that are going into the foster care situation. Those children, in many cases, are in trouble, they are becoming more difficult for the foster parents to work with and to take care of, and then that results in a higher rate of burnout, and we are not replacing those foster parents because they are not being reimbursed an amount of money, in the place, that it is even worth their taking children. But, secondly, if these parents could have an opportunity, and I worked on the other part of the bill, which is the foster training for two years, and have been out at a conference, a state conference, of foster care providers, and those people have talked about the fact that they are just now for the first time once in awhile being able to get together, and that training could provide them with the sense that they know how to cope with and they will understand the problems they are dealing with with these children, and it will make it easier for them in the end. They will be able to keep those children in their home, and it will result in less moves for those children, and, hopefully, resolve more problems, and in the end, at a much lower cost to society than if we didn't do this kind of thing. I think foster training has been a long time in coming. Senator, I am not going to try to address the other part of the bill, which the original bill was Senator Hartnett's, but on behalf of the training, itself, this is very, very important for us to maintain those foster parents that we have out there, and for their better care of the children that they are providing for. I ask your support for this. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Korshoj.

SENATOR KORSHOJ: Question.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Korshoj moves the previous question. I see five hands. Shall debate now cease? All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, please.